

**[L. H. Williams, Jr.]**

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FOLKLORE—White Pioneers

Miss Effie Cowan, P.W.

District No. 8

McLennan County, Texas. Pioneer History Life History

No. words 500

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Page No. 1 W as told [?] a diary Reference

Interview with L. H. Williams, Jr., and papers belonging to the Williams family, Mt. Calm, Texas.

("My grandfather father was L. H. Williams, Indian Agent for the Cherokees. He left a diary and the following story is taken from it. This old book was written by hand on foolscap paper and part of it was lost in a storm which tore our house down and more was lost when our home burned. But this scrap is really authentic and is the history of Texas in pioneer times.)

"I was born in Nachodoches, Nachodoches County, December 10, 1828. My parents came to Texas from middle Tennessee along with Sam Houston and the Cherokee Indians. They made their settlements at Nacogdoches. They were the first white settlers, there was nothing in the country but Mexicans and native Indians from the tribes of Shawnees, Irroneys, Kickapoos. There was plenty of deer and turkey wild wild turkey and some bear

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and panthers, and plenty of wolves. The nearest settlement was on the Sabine River. We had a good deal of trouble with the Indians; we raised corn and potatoes and had plenty of wild game. The little farms consisted of five or six acres and were fenced with hand split rails. The Indian women did the farming.

"L.H. Williams, my father was appointed Indian agent for the Cherokees. His duty was to obtain information for the whites about the movements of the Indians. On the Neches River, at the San Antonio crossing a trading post was established. He had control of it. The Cherokees paid money for dry goods and groceries. My father served during the whole Mexican war, at San Antonio, he received a wound which afterward cost him his eye. He was with Sam Houston in the battle of San Jacinto. C.12 - 2/11/41 - Texas 2 FOLKLORE —White Pioneers

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"We moved to old Mt. Calm in 1846, this place is now in Limestone County. There was no settlement in this place nearer than Springfield which was twenty-five miles east of us. There were plenty of wild Indians here, among them were Comanches, Tonkawa, Keechis and Wacoos. They never molested us at all. But they fought among themselves[,?] that is the Caddoes and the Wacoos fought. There was a trading house on the Tehuscana which was run by George Barnard. The Caddoes lost some horses and the Tribes met at Trading House for council. They found the horses in the possession of the Waco Indians. They refused to give them up and they had a fight and the Caddos whipped the Wacoos

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and took their horses. Several were killed and wounded on both sides. The Comanches came in next day and took possession of the horses, killed them, claiming that would settle the dispute. Then the Tonkawas came in the next day and ate the horses and that settled the war. After that they moved the trading house where the County of Johnson is now. My father acted as interpreter for the Indians and he had to stay at the Trading House.

“When we went to establish the Trading House, Mark Crabtree, Brooks Lee, High Estes, father and I went; we were working for Charley Barnard I was a teamster. We were going along about ten o'clock and we discovered about three hundred Comanche braves on a high line. They were running back and forth. I called to father to look. He saw them and said, “Boys, they are going to charge us.” They came running toward us at full speed with one arrow in their bow and another in their mouth. As soon as the Chief recognized father, he checked the warriors. They tore our wagon sheet off to see what we had in the wagon. They found no women and children, nothing but [food?]. “